

Appendix B

Watershed Management Planning Guidance and Criteria

The development of new watershed management plans and general updates of old watershed management plans are not eligible under the current Request for Proposals. Technical updates of watershed management plans are an eligible component of nonpoint source (NPS) implementation projects. Technical updates consist of adding or updating specific information to otherwise current and approved watershed management plans. Technical updates could include, but are not limited to:

- Field inventories Identifying specific sites that are the sources and causes of NPS pollutants impairing a designated use,
- Environmental or social monitoring,
- Incorporating the NPS load allocation from approved Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL), or
- Models that identify and prioritize areas for restoration or protection like the landscape level wetland functional analysis.

The NPS Program will continue to review and approve watershed management plans as meeting State and federal criteria. It is strongly encouraged that NPS staff is contacted for involvement and guidance early in all planning projects regardless of the project funding source.

State and Federal Guidance:

State Guidance: Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) Administrative Rules on Watershed Management Planning (Part 88, Water Pollution and Environmental Protection Act, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, [NREPA] MCL 324.8808). Administrative Rules promulgated in October 1999 for the CMI Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants, require watershed management plans be approved by the DEQ. In addition, the rules require the DEQ to use CMI NPS funds to implement only DEQ-approved watershed management plans. The Nonpoint Source Program produced a guidebook (the “Blue Book”) for the development of watershed management plans that includes the required CMI elements and examples. The Guidebook is available at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/ess-nps-watershed-planning_210637_7.pdf.

Federal Guidance: The United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (U.S. EPA’s) Nine Minimum Elements of Watershed Management Planning

To ensure that Section 319 projects make progress towards restoring waters impaired by NPS pollution, watershed-based plans that are implemented with Section 319 funds must include the nine minimum elements of watershed management planning. The U.S. EPA believes that these nine elements are critical to assure that public funds are used effectively. The U.S. EPA has developed a guidebook describing these elements and including information on how these elements can be met. The guidebook is available [here](#).

Additional guidance on the nine minimum elements of watershed management planning is available [here](#).

Required Elements to Meet both State and Federal Watershed Planning Guidance

- Table comparing CMI, 319, and storm water planning criteria is available [here](#).
- Current checklist for CMI approval is [here](#).
- Current checklist for 319 approval is [here](#).